

[c27] (Original) The method of claim [c25], wherein said stream further comprises said para-brominated hydroxyaromatic from said removed major portion of said product-containing liquid.

[c28] ~~[c27]~~ (Original) The method of claim [c25], wherein said stream further comprises said major portion of said unreacted hydroxyaromatic compound from said removed major portion of said product-containing liquid.

[c29] ~~[28]~~ (Original) The method of claim [c25], wherein said aqueous hydrogen bromide is said bromine compound in said acidic medium, and wherein said stream further comprises said unreacted said aqueous hydrogen bromide from said product-containing liquid.

[c30] ~~[c29]~~ (Original) The method of claim [c25], further comprising the step of removing said para-brominated hydroxyaromatic compound from said post equilibration solution.

Remarks

Claims 1-30 were originally filed with this application. In the present response, claims 1, 5, and 6 have been canceled, and claim 2 has been amended. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 7-30 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added by the amendments presented herein. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Numbering

While preparing the present response, the undersigned discovered that two consecutive claims were each numbered 27. To correct this error, the undersigned has renumbered the claims in the above amendments. In particular, the second occurrence of claim 27 has been renumbered

as claim 28, and the claims originally numbered as 28 and 29 have been renumbered as 29 and 30, respectively.

Specification

In the outstanding Action, the Examiner required that the status of copending applications be updated in the specification. The Examiner noted that none of the cited applications has actually issued. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section of the specification by deleting the portion referring to the patent number and issue date for each copending patent application.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting

Claims 1-11 and 18-24 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,815,565. In response to this rejection, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer and fee therefore in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.321(b) and (c). However, if additional fees are required for the filing of the present Terminal Disclaimer, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 08-1935.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,987,068 to Reilly. In the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 5, and 6 and have rewritten dependent claim 2 into independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12-17 and 25-30 (as renumbered herein) were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim base. Claims 12-17 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 7, and claims 25-30 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 18. Applicants submit

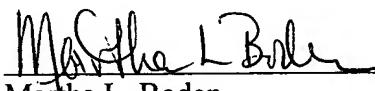
USSN 10/664,093
Pressman et al.
Page 12 of 12

125338-1

that the terminal disclaimer submitted herewith overcomes the rejection of claims 7 and 18. Therefore, there is no need to rewrite claims 12-17 and 25-30 into independent form, and claims 12-17 and 25-30 are therefore in condition for allowance as originally presented.

There being no further outstanding issues, Applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 7-30 are now in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request the same. However, if the Examiner has any questions or further comments regarding the pending claims, he is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,


Martha L. Boden
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 39,115

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HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518)452-5600
Facsimile: (518)452-5579